



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

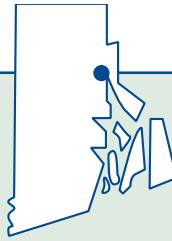
Providence, RI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Providence was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant, and a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in eastern Rhode Island, Providence (population 176,365) has at least 300 brownfields sites, including several in seven neighborhoods targeted for assessments. After World War II, industry and jobs at mills and manufacturing plants in those neighborhoods relocated or shut down. Today, median household incomes in the neighborhoods range from 45 to 76 percent of the state income, and from 17 to 41 percent of families live below the poverty level. The former Lincoln Lace and Braid Mill, targeted for cleanup, is in the Woonasquatucket River Valley, where the river provided support for the city's mercantile trade and industrial growth. There is disinvestment and decline in the project neighborhood, where the



Assessment Grant

New
2006

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Providence for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform up to ten Phase I and at least seven Phase II environmental site assessments in seven target neighborhoods that are among the poorest in the city. Funds also will be used for community involvement activities.

Cleanup Grant

New
2006

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Providence for a brownfields cleanup grant. Grant funds will be used to clean up the former Lincoln Lace and Braid Mill at 55 Ponagansett Avenue, which is contaminated with heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Funds also will be used for an engineered cap design and for community involvement activities. When the site is cleaned up, it will become a public park that will include two soccer fields and recreation areas.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team

617-918-1424

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Providence, RI

401-351-4300

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

median household income is 67 percent of the state average, and 40 percent of families live below the poverty level. The impacts of brownfields in the neighborhoods include visual blight, higher rates of asthma and respiratory diseases, and hindered economic development. When the assessed sites are cleaned up, they will be used to jump-start private development and provide greenspace. The Lincoln Lace and Braid Mill will become part of a seven-mile greenway project, and a public park that will include two soccer fields and recreation areas. Development of these brownfields will serve as a catalyst for economic growth, removing blight and potential health risks, and revitalizing distressed urban neighborhoods of Providence.